

Testimony to Appropriations Committee
February 24, 2014

My name is Wendy Samberg. I work at a Connecticut Community College in a department set up to assist high school students to transition into college. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in advocacy of Connecticut's graduating high school students who expect to enroll in our community colleges this fall.

What would traditionally be an exciting time in these young graduates' lives has turned to apprehension and dread. "Will my Accuplacer and SAT scores be high enough to place me into college level courses in the fall?" "If not, what will happen to me?"

These students, who are struggling with the news that our community colleges will no longer offer remedial courses, are our BEST students. These are the kids who persevered. These are the kids who didn't drop out. These are the kids who yearn to move successfully into higher education. Do we really want to disenfranchise them?

It is crucial to the wellbeing of our cities that the implementation of this law be pushed back until there is a plan in place that won't negatively impact our young people and our communities. There is enough unemployment and poverty to go around now.

We strongly implore you to reinstate the funding that previously covered the cost of remediation. This funding must remain intact until students graduate from our high schools with the needed academic skills to matriculate in college. The law calls for a close working relationship between school districts and colleges. Yet, that work isn't expected to be implemented until 2016. Students should not be punished for our transgressions. It is unconscionable to victimize our students when the work of the departments of education, higher education, school districts and colleges – the grownups – do not have their acts in place.

I ask that you reinstate funding in the budget to cover the remedial courses until a solid plan for high school student achievement is in place.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Subject	Course_Nr	Spring Semeser		
		2013	2014	
ENG*	I043	23	32	up to 800 students
ENG*	I063	26	26	
ENG*	I073	16	11	
ENG*	I082	10	7	
ENG*	I098		6	
MAT*	I075	29	36	up to 900 students
MAT*	I085		5	
MAT*	I092	1	1	
MAT*	I095	41	45	
MAT*	I097	5		
MAT*	I098		1	
TOTAL		151	170	

Each class has up to 25 students; 043 and 075 are the lowest

**GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OVERALL PLACEMENT OF MATH AND ENGLISH**

Table 1. Number of All New Students Being Placed by the New Classification If Using the Data from 09 Fall to 13 Fall

Fail Semester	Total New Students	Total New Students Being Tested	College-Level Placement	Embedded Class Placement	Intensive Class Placement	Bootcamp Placement
2009	1425	1404	83	185	699	437
2010	1361	1342	92	192	607	451
2011	1344	1329	75	201	637	416
2012	1510	1491	92	174	721	504
2013	1495	1470	88	193	730	459

Table 1. Percentage of All New Students Being Placed by the New Classification If Using the Data from 09 Fall to 13 Fall

Fail Semester	Total New Students	Total New Students Being Tested	College-Level Placement	Embedded Class Placement	Intensive Class Placement	Bootcamp Placement
2009		98.5%	5.9%	13.2%	49.8%	31.1%
2010		98.6%	6.9%	14.3%	45.2%	33.6%
2011		98.9%	5.6%	15.1%	47.9%	31.3%
2012		98.7%	6.2%	11.7%	48.4%	33.8%
2013		98.3%	6.0%	13.1%	49.7%	31.2%